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discussions of the various proposals in the committees, before they were laid before the Conference as a whole, are given with a fullness sufficient to indicate the reasons which led the delegates to adopt one plan or reject another. The same may be said of the report of the proceedings in the Conference itself. As the book has been written primarily for American and English readers, particular attention is properly paid to the action of the American and British representatives.

Probably the chapter which will most provoke discussion is the one in which Mr. Holls attempts to indicate the bearings of the Conference upon International Law and Policy. It is to be feared that most students of international affairs will not share the enthusiasm which leads the author to apply to the treaty of The Hague for the Pacific Adjustment of International Differences the title of "*Magna Charta of International Law.*" Nevertheless, the chapter is not the least interesting in the book, and the question is one the decision of which must be left to the future.

The last two hundred pages of the volume are devoted to three appendices. The first of these contains the full text of the final act, treaties and declarations adopted by the Conference, the French text being printed on the left hand, and an English translation on the right-hand pages; the second gives the general report of the Commission of the United States made to the Secretary of State; and the third, an account of the Grotius celebration held at Delft July 4, 1898. The value of the book as a work of reference for the student of International Law would be enhanced were the index made somewhat more full. It is impossible, for example, to find by means of it what powers have ratified the different treaties. This, however, is but a slight blemish on a work which it is to be hoped will have a wide circulation and thus be the means of producing on the part of the world at large a more just estimate of the achievements of the Hague Conference.

THE LAW OF TORTS.—By Melville Madison Bigelow, Ph. D. Seventh Edition. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1901. pp. xxxi, 438.

This is an admirable book in every respect. In appearance, as well as in substance, the present edition is superior to either of the six editions which have preceded it. For this marked improvement both the publishers and the author are entitled to credit.

In the preface, Mr. Bigelow frankly admits that none of the earlier editions covered the whole field of tort; and he refers the reader, who cares to see the starting point of this work, to the preface of his leading cases on torts, published in 1875. A comparison of the two books is interesting and instructive. It shows not only that the author's conception of his subject has been enlarged and systematized during this quarter of a century, but also that the subject has received careful and scientific treatment by writers and judges. In his earliest book Mr. Bigelow dealt with various kinds of torts, and stated the rules appertaining to them with

clearness and accuracy, but he made no attempt to show that there was a law of torts. The first effective attempt of that sort was made by Sir Frederick Pollock a decade later. The present edition opens, however, with a full and lucid discussion of the principles underlying the English law of torts, and a statement of their application to the different classes of torts. Still, he does not essay the task of formulating a definition of tort which shall be complete in itself. Such a task, he declares, is hopeless. "Indeed no definition," to quote his language, "helped out however much by explanation, can convey an adequate notion of the meaning of the word; nothing short of careful study of the specific torts of the law will answer, for there is no such thing as a typical tort, an actual tort, that is to say, which contains all the elements entering into the rest. But they all have this in common, that there must be a breach of duty paramount, or, as we shall now put it, established by municipal law; and they all lead to an action for damages." Dealing with the subject in this practical, English-lawyer-like way, he does not fall into the error of declaring that a tort is a violation of a right *in rem* only, or that one can always avoid committing a tort by forbearing to act.

Perhaps in no respect is the superiority of the present edition over its predecessors more marked than in its notes. Not only do they contain more references, but the citations are from a wider field than formerly, and are brought down to the latest possible date. This is notable, especially, in the chapters on Maliciously Procuring Refusal to Contract, and on Procuring Breach of Contract.

MAY ON INSURANCE. Fourth Edition. By John M. Gould. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1900. pp. Vol. I, xciv, 1-711. vol. II, 712-1510.

Extended criticism of a work first published in 1873 and now appearing in a fourth edition is obviously uncalled for. The only suggestion which we have to offer, with reference to the revision, ought to be equally obvious, though, unfortunately for student and practitioner alike, it seems not always to be apparent to the writers and publishers of legal text books.

It is far too often the case that author or reviser, as the case may be, regards his task as one of compilation only, and deems it complete when he has digested some thousands of decided cases and arranged his digests in more or less connected narrative form.

The comparison and analysis of decisions with reference to fundamental principles is hastily or imperfectly done, or, perhaps, what is preferable in such case, not done at all.

In dealing with a subject which is undergoing rapid development, the reviser, quite as much as the author, requires some ingredient other than citations and digests of decisions in order to compound a scientific treatise on the law. Of no branch of the law can this be said with greater truth than of the law of Insurance, and few books could offer a more satisfactory basis for a revision which should discuss with skill and learning recent development in the law, than Mr. May's well-known work.